

STAR WARS™

MARVEL

DOCTOR APHRA

008

GILLEN
BROCCARDO
FABELA



THE SCREAMING CITADEL

Book I, Part V

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those operating on the fringes, there is potential for profit.

Rogue archaeologist Chelli Aphra is accompanied by young Rebel pilot, Luke Skywalker, to the Citadel of Ktath'atn – the Screaming Citadel – as they attempt to reactivate the Rur Crystal, an artifact with the consciousness of an ancient Jedi inside.

However, the Queen intends to capture them when she infects Han Solo with a symbiote, bringing him under the control of her hive mind. Princess Leia and Sana Starros attempt to launch a rescue mission, while Aphra decides to launch her own attack, beginning with infecting Luke with a symbiote as well....

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The Screaming Citadel.

I AM KING.

YOU ARE MY QUEEN.

I AM NO ONE'S ANYTHING. EVERYONE HERE IS MINE.

I WILL NOT SURRENDER MY DOMINION TO ANYONE.





OUR QUEEN...
SHE IS ENTIRELY
COMMITTED WITH
ALL HER WILL.

SHE IS
NO LONGER
CONTROLLING HER
SUBORDINATES...
SO WE ARE THE MOST
DOMINANT IN THE
HIVE! WE ARE THE
MASTERS!

ALL
THE LOWER
HIVE MEMBERS
ARE OURS TO
CONTROL...



WE
TWO...AND
SOLO.



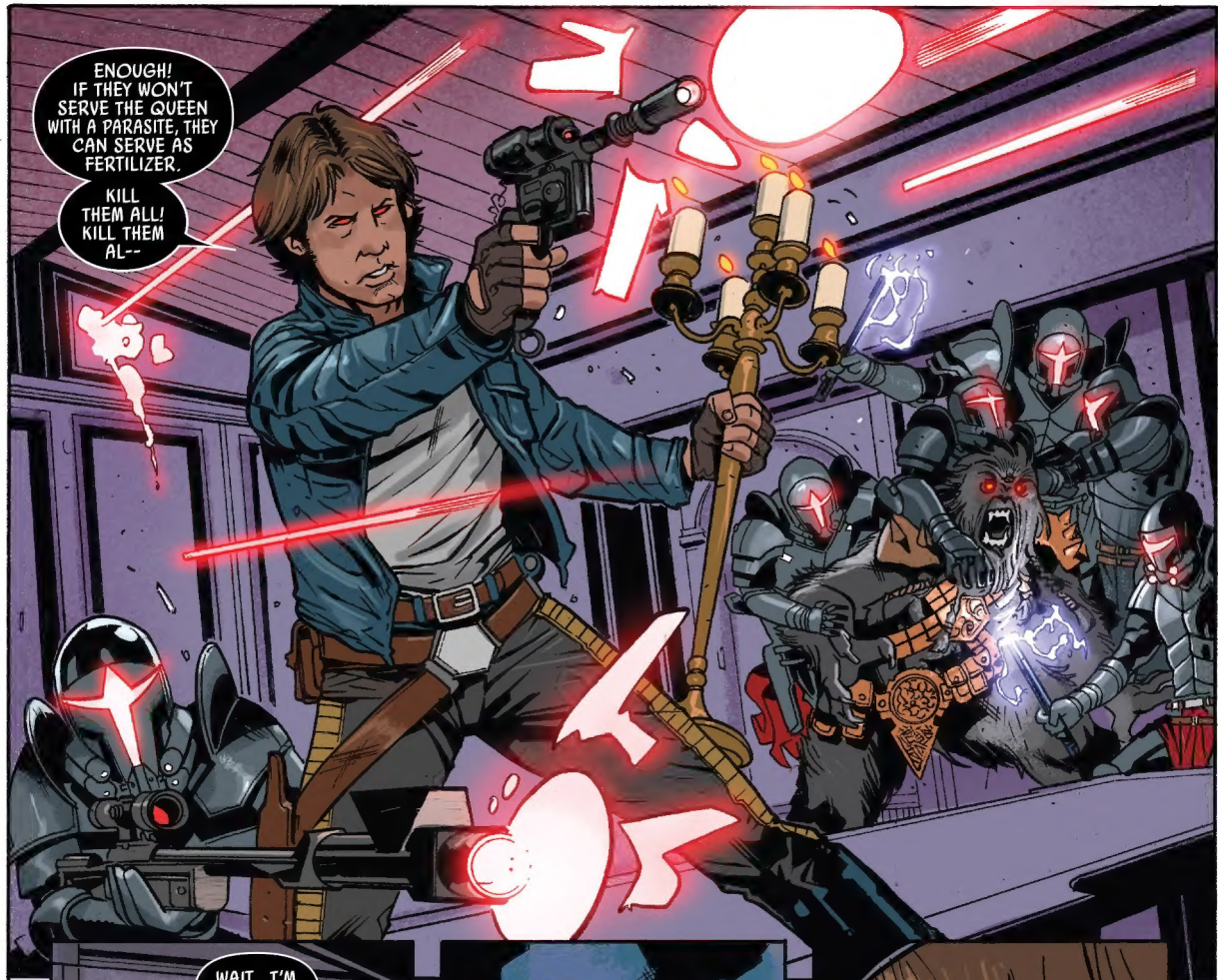
QUICKLY.



YEAH, LEAVE
THESE TWO IN
A PSYCHIC HIGH-
STAKES CARD
GAME.



AND
LET ME SLIP
BLONDIE A
WINNING
HAND.



ENOUGH!
IF THEY WON'T
SERVE THE QUEEN
WITH A PARASITE, THEY
CAN SERVE AS
FERTILIZER.

KILL
THEM ALL!
KILL THEM
AL--



WAIT...I'M
IN CHARGE.
OF ME.

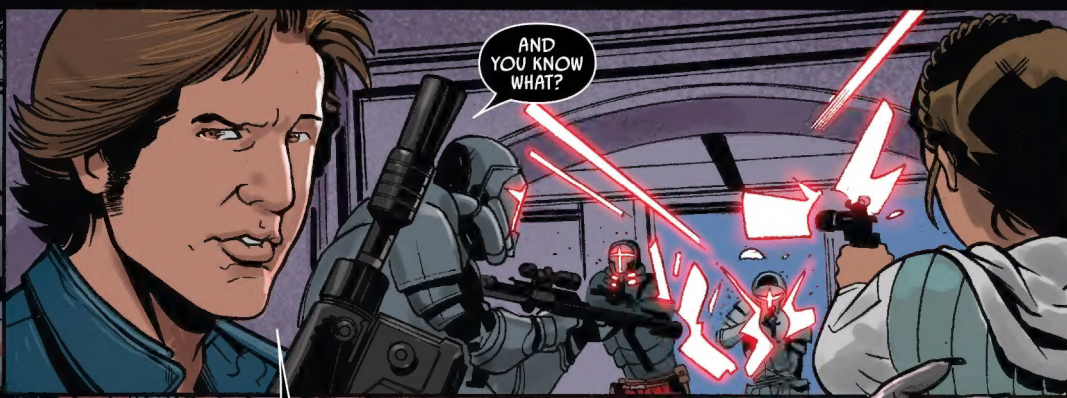
OF
EVERYONE
BENEATH ME. SO
MANY LESSERS.
I...

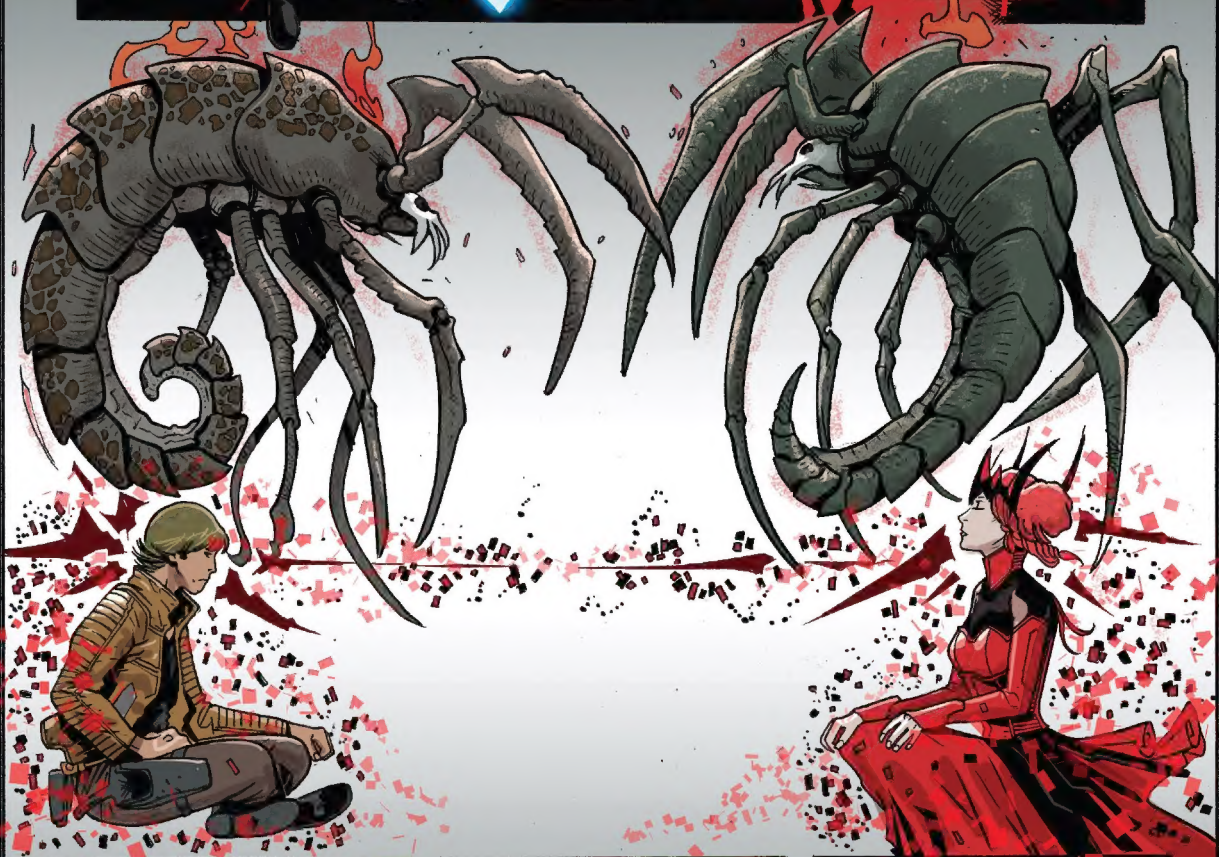
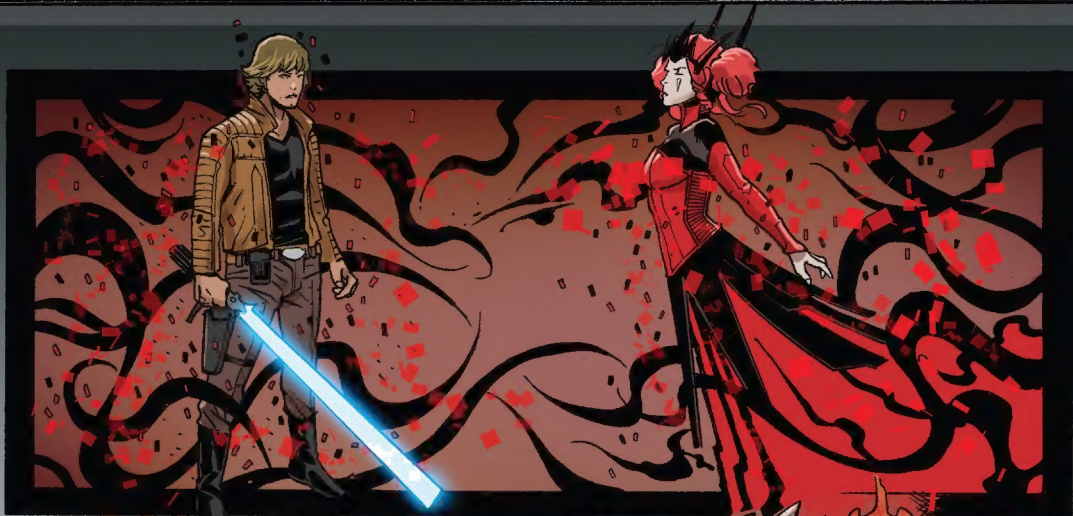


HAN!
FIGHT
IT!



EVERYONE...
LOWER YOUR
WEAPONS.







WHO ARE YOU?

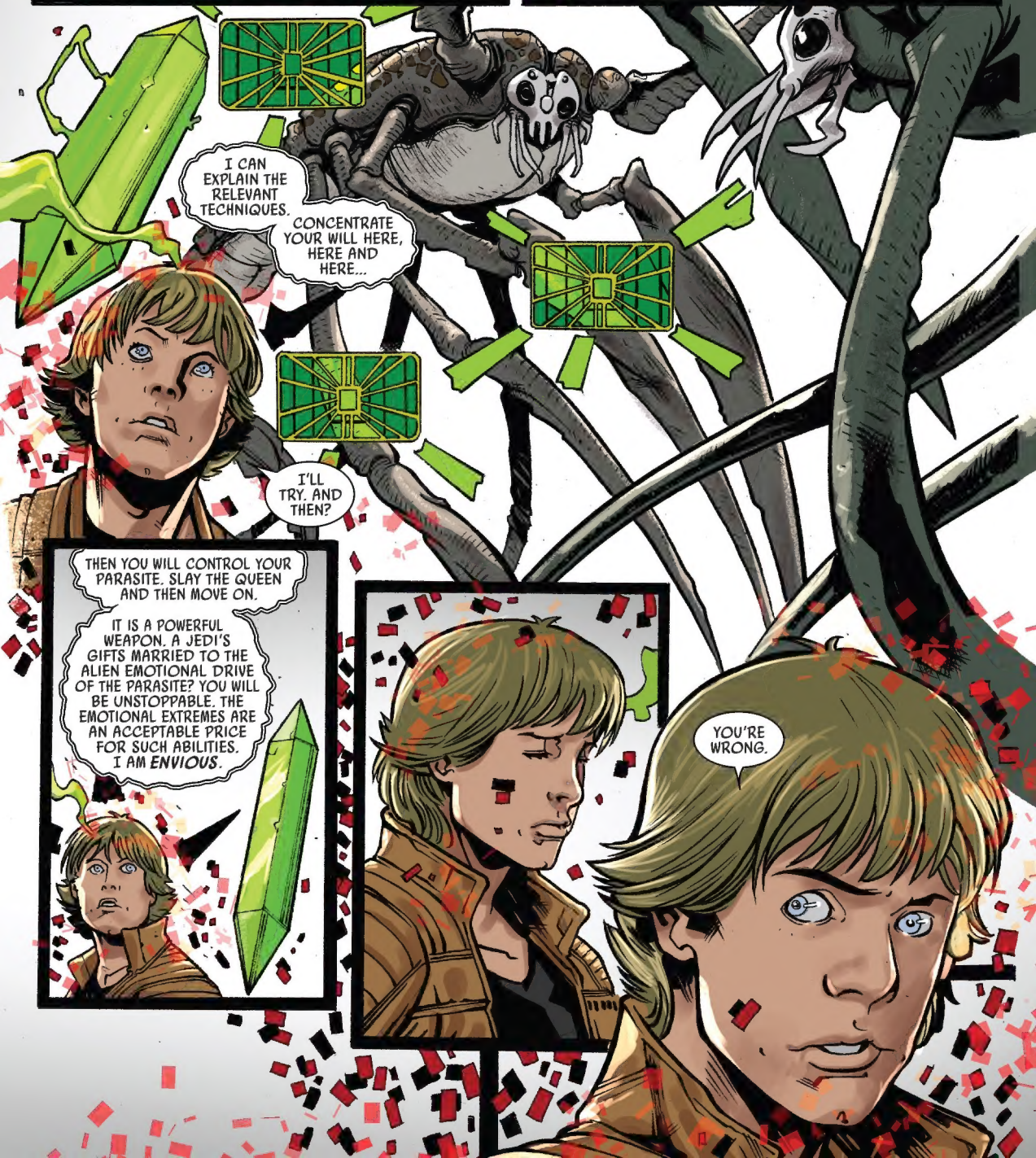
I AM
ETERNAL
RUR.

THE APHRA
HUMAN HAD ME
PROJECT INTO YOUR
CONSCIOUSNESS.



I MUST
ASSIST YOU IN
THIS DUEL. YOU HAVE
BEEN COMPROMISED
BY AN ALIEN
PARASITE.

YOU CAN
MASTER IT AND
USE IT AS A
WEAPON.



I CAN
EXPLAIN THE
RELEVANT
TECHNIQUES.

CONCENTRATE
YOUR WILL HERE,
HERE AND
HERE...

I'LL
TRY. AND
THEN?

THEN YOU WILL CONTROL YOUR
PARASITE. SLAY THE QUEEN
AND THEN MOVE ON.

IT IS A POWERFUL
WEAPON. A JEDI'S
GIFTS MARRIED TO THE
ALIEN EMOTIONAL DRIVE
OF THE PARASITE? YOU WILL
BE UNSTOPPABLE. THE
EMOTIONAL EXTREMES ARE
AN ACCEPTABLE PRICE
FOR SUCH ABILITIES.
I AM ENVIOUS.

YOU'RE
WRONG.

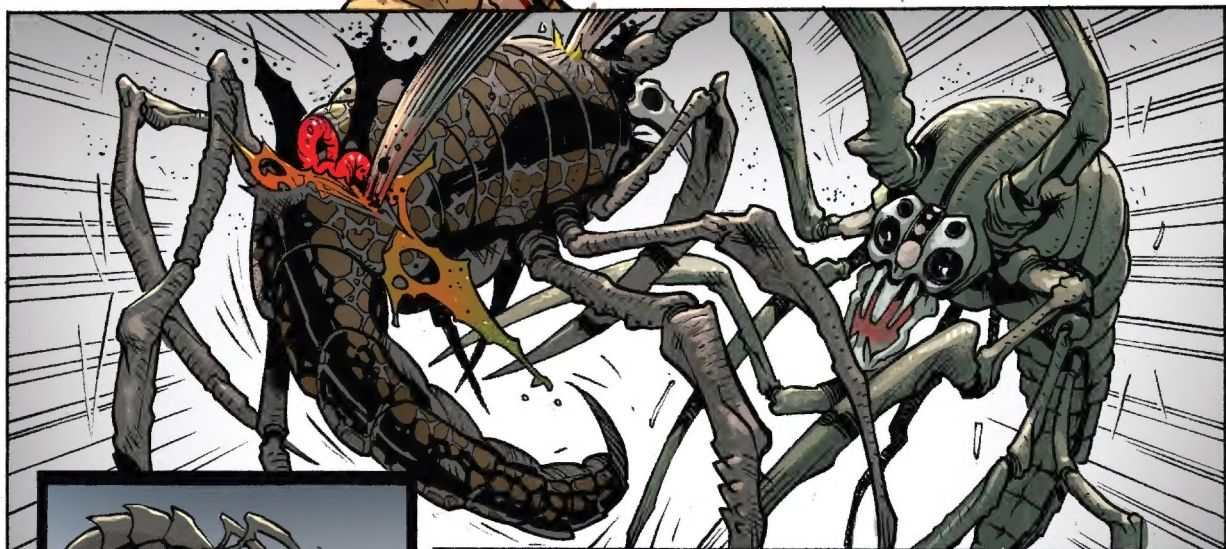
ARROGANT
HUMAN! I AM WISDOM
FROM BEYOND TIME!
OBEY!

YOU'RE NOT
A JEDI. YOU JUST
KNOW WHAT A
JEDI KNOWS.

THAT'S
NOT ENOUGH.
KNOWING ISN'T
ENOUGH.

BEING A
JEDI IS ABOUT
BEING.

LETTING
GO...

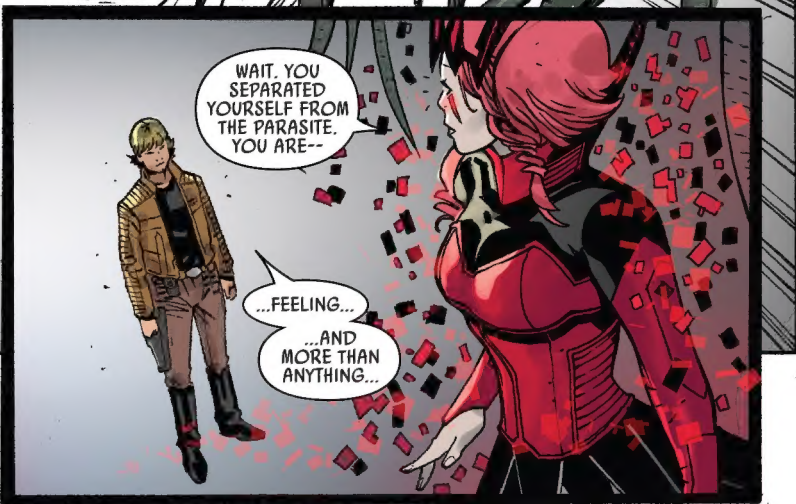
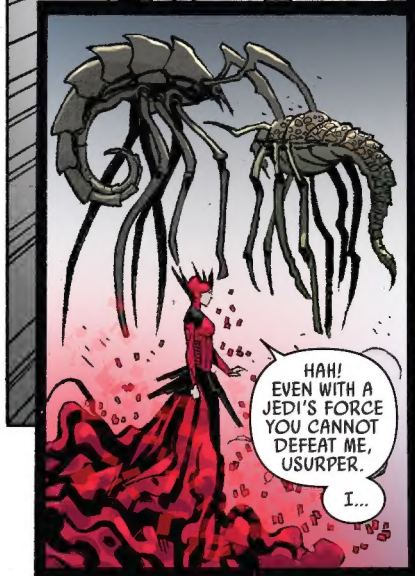


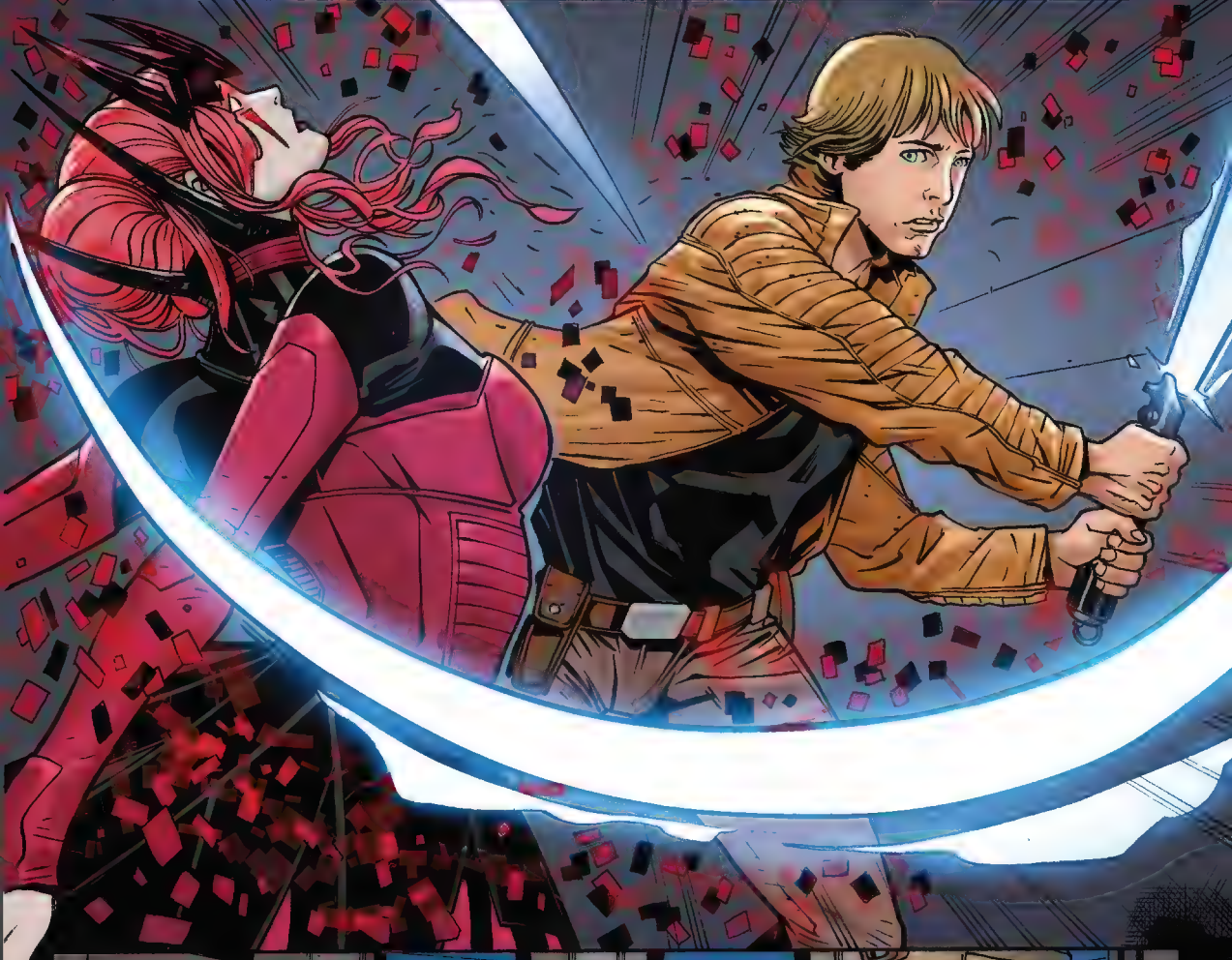
HAH!
EVEN WITH A
JEDI'S FORCE
YOU CANNOT
DEFEAT ME,
USURPER.

I...

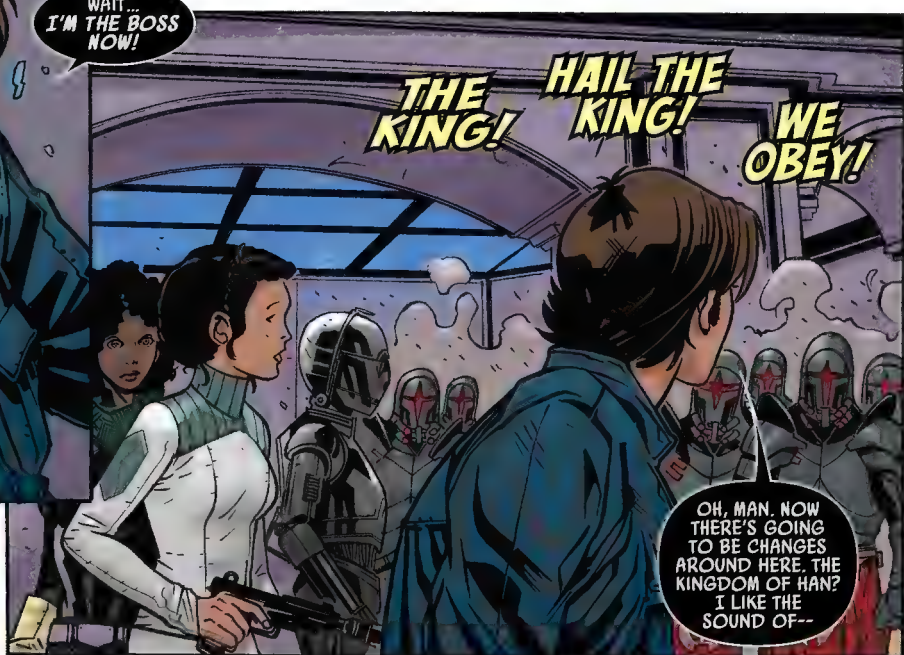
WAIT. YOU
SEPARATED
YOURSELF FROM
THE PARASITE.
YOU ARE--

...FEELING...
...AND
MORE THAN
ANYTHING...











OKAY,
HOW DOES A GUY
DISBAND AN ALIEN
HIVE? ER...

HOW
ABOUT...

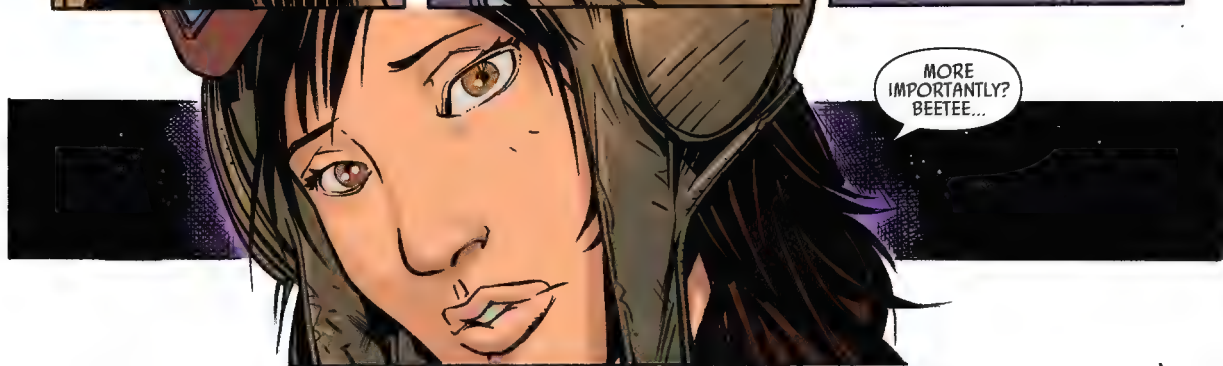
ALL OF
YOU SHALL...
QUIT THESE PEOPLE!
NOW! I ORDER
IT SO!

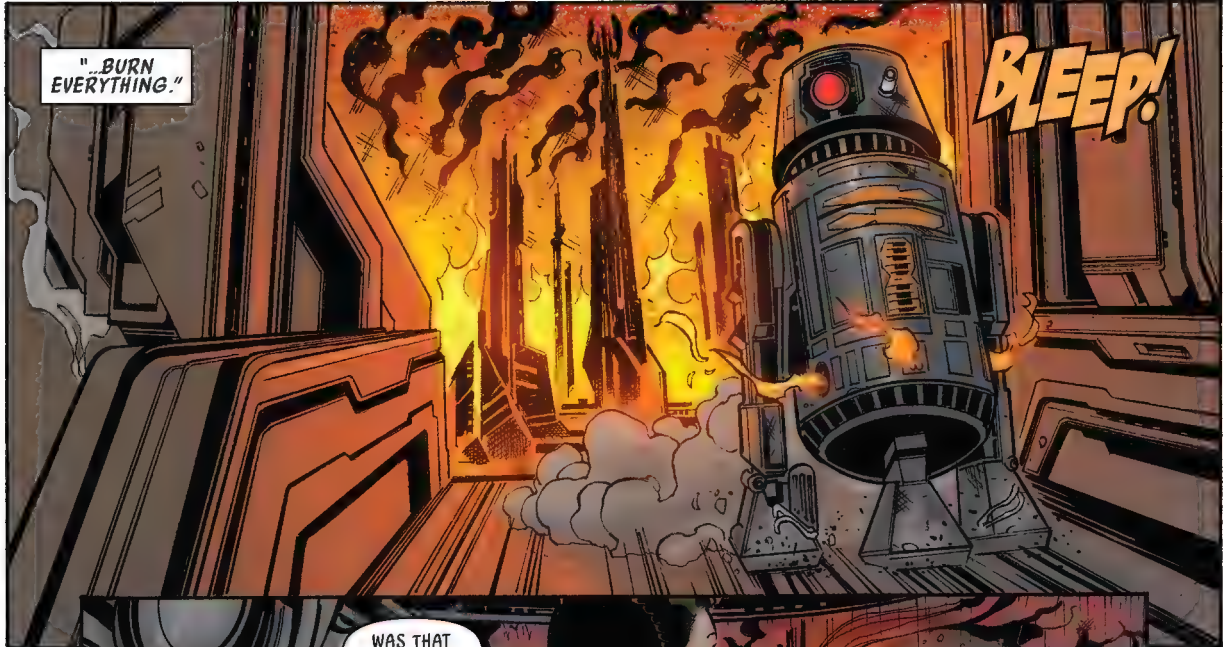
SOUND
GOOD?



OH,
GREAT, HAN
SOLO, THE GREAT
EMANCIPATING
MESSIAH.

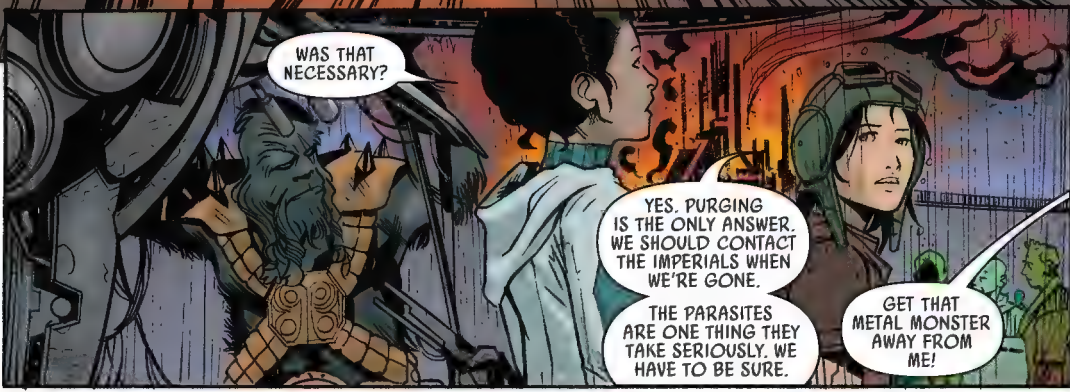
HOW ARE
WE GOING
TO LIVE WITH
THIS?





"BURN EVERYTHING."

BLEEP!



WAS THAT NECESSARY?

YES. PURGING IS THE ONLY ANSWER. WE SHOULD CONTACT THE IMPERIALS WHEN WE'RE GONE.

THE PARASITES ARE ONE THING THEY TAKE SERIOUSLY. WE HAVE TO BE SURE.

GET THAT METAL MONSTER AWAY FROM ME!



HAN! YOU'RE OKAY!

NO, I'M NOT OKAY! THAT THING DRILLED INTO MY HEAD!

AH--I CAN SEE THE PROBLEM. OUR FASTEST ACTING NEUROTOXIN IS MERELY A PARALYZING AGENT.



IF YOU WANTED A PAINKILLER, YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE SPECIFIC.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT IF YOU'RE SLOPPY, PRINCESS LEIA.



I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE IN ONE PIECE, HAN.

HEY, IT'S ON ME. THOUGHT IT WAS A BUNCH OF MUMBO JUMBO, BUT TURNS OUT...WELL, IT'S NOT...

THIS ONE TIME, ANYWAY. MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE OVERCONFIDENT...



SHUSH. IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE YOU.

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH YOU,
PRINCESS?

JUST A
MOMENT OF
BEING GRATEFUL
FOR YOU
GUYS.

WELL, I
DON'T KNOW
ABOUT THE OTHERS,
BUT *THIS* GUY
COULD GET USED
TO IT.

DON'T
WORRY,
IT WON'T
LAST.

HEY,
APHRA.

OKAY. THIS
IS MY PIECE.
FIRSTLY--

NO. NOT
NOW. YOU LEFT,
BUT YOU CAME
BACK.

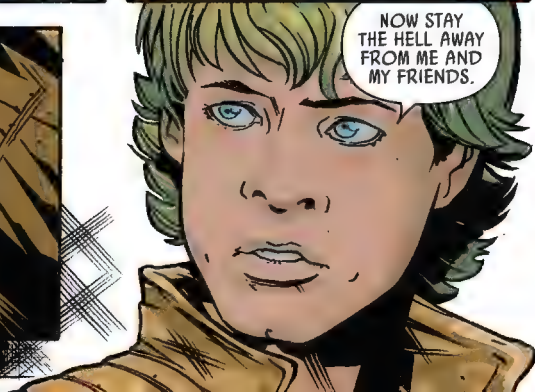
THAT'S AS
GOOD AS
ANYONE CAN
EXPECT FROM
YOU.

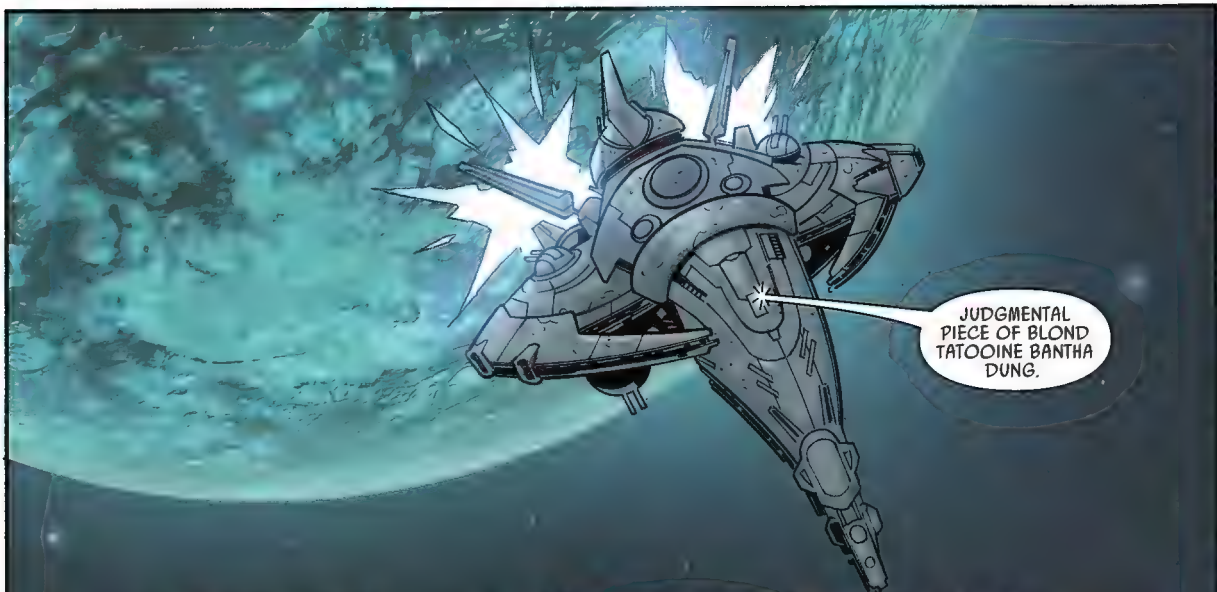
I WASN'T
GOING TO
COME
BACK.

BUT YOU
DID.

WHERE
DID IT GO
WRONG WITH
US?

WE MET.



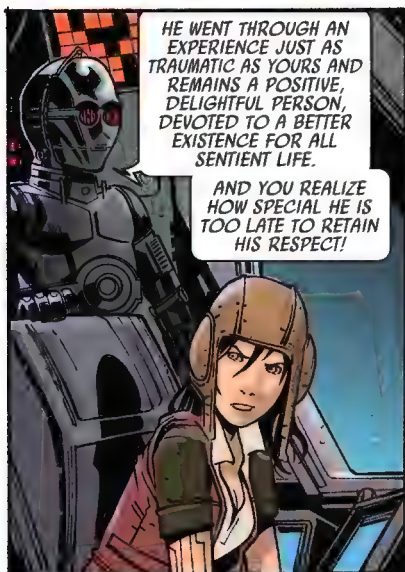


JUDGMENTAL
PIECE OF BLOND
TATOOINE BANTHA
DUNG.



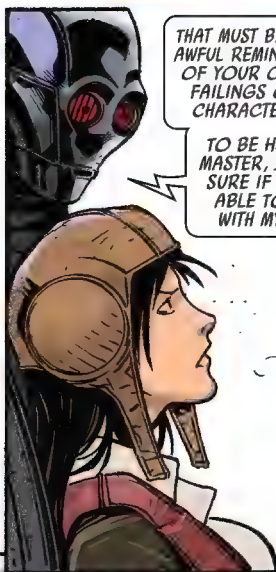
HE
ANNOYS ME
SO MUCH.

I CAN
IMAGINE.



HE WENT THROUGH AN
EXPERIENCE JUST AS
TRAUMATIC AS YOURS AND
REMAINS A POSITIVE,
DELIGHTFUL PERSON,
DEVOTED TO A BETTER
EXISTENCE FOR ALL
SENTIENT LIFE.

AND YOU REALIZE
HOW SPECIAL HE IS
TOO LATE TO RETAIN
HIS RESPECT!

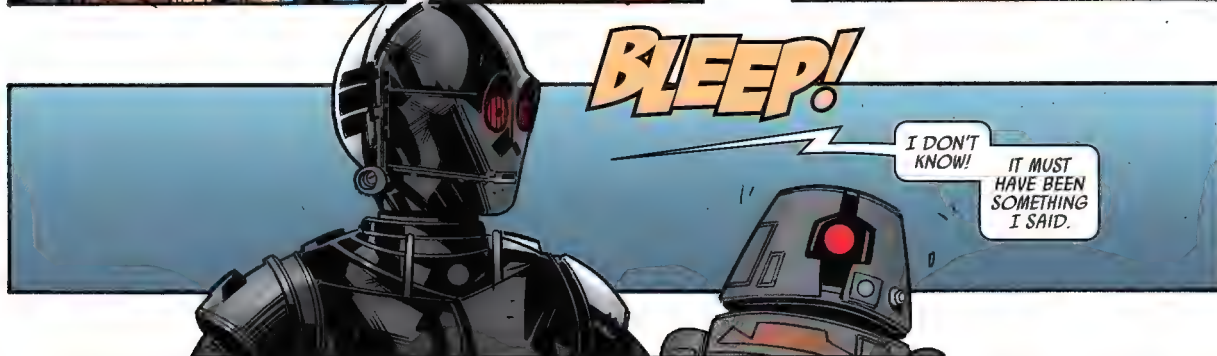


THAT MUST BE AN
AWFUL REMINDER
OF YOUR OWN
FAILINGS OF
CHARACTER.

TO BE HONEST,
MASTER, I'M NOT
SURE IF I'D BE
ABLE TO LIVE
WITH MYSELF.



TAKE THE
CONTROLS,
KRRSANTAN.



BLEEP!

I DON'T
KNOW!

IT MUST
HAVE BEEN
SOMETHING
I SAID.



AND ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE, HER DROIDS LOBOTOMIZED ESSFOR?!

I DON'T GET IT, SANA...



...HOW COULD YOU HAVE EVER BEEN WITH HER?

YOU KNOW, LUKE?

I'VE NEVER FOUND A GOOD ANSWER TO THAT.



HEY, DON'T MAKE IT ABOUT HER AND HER FREAKSHOW.

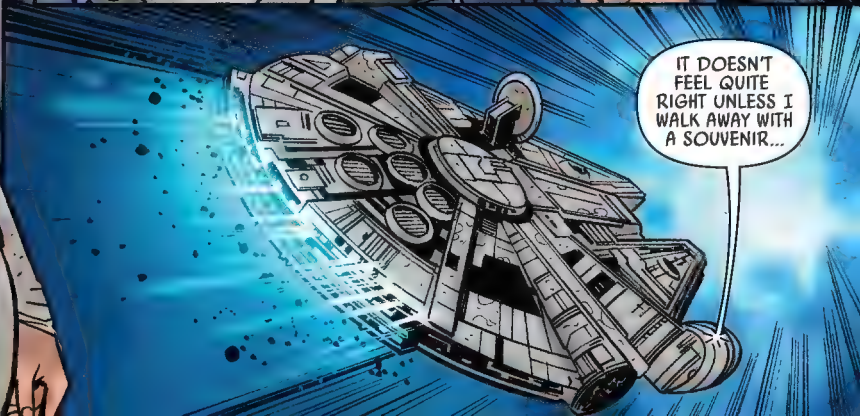
WE SAVED THE DAY. WE FREED PEOPLE. WE'RE TOGETHER.



THAT'S SOMETHING. THAT'S EVERYTHING.

NOW YOU'RE TALKING!

DO I GET ANOTHER MEDAL?



IT DOESN'T FEEL QUITE RIGHT UNLESS I WALK AWAY WITH A SOUVENIR...



WE CAN
LEAVE. WE
SHOULD LEAVE.
QUICKLY!

DON'T BE
A FOOL.

WE'LL LEAVE...
BUT HOW MANY
GENERATIONS TOILED
FOR HER, BLED FOR
HER, WERE HER
CATTLE?



WE'RE
STARTING A
NEW LIFE. WE NEED
SOMETHING TO PAY
FOR IT.

THE PLACE
COLLAPSED AS
IT BURNED. THERE
MUST BE SOMETHING
BURIED WE
CAN SELL.

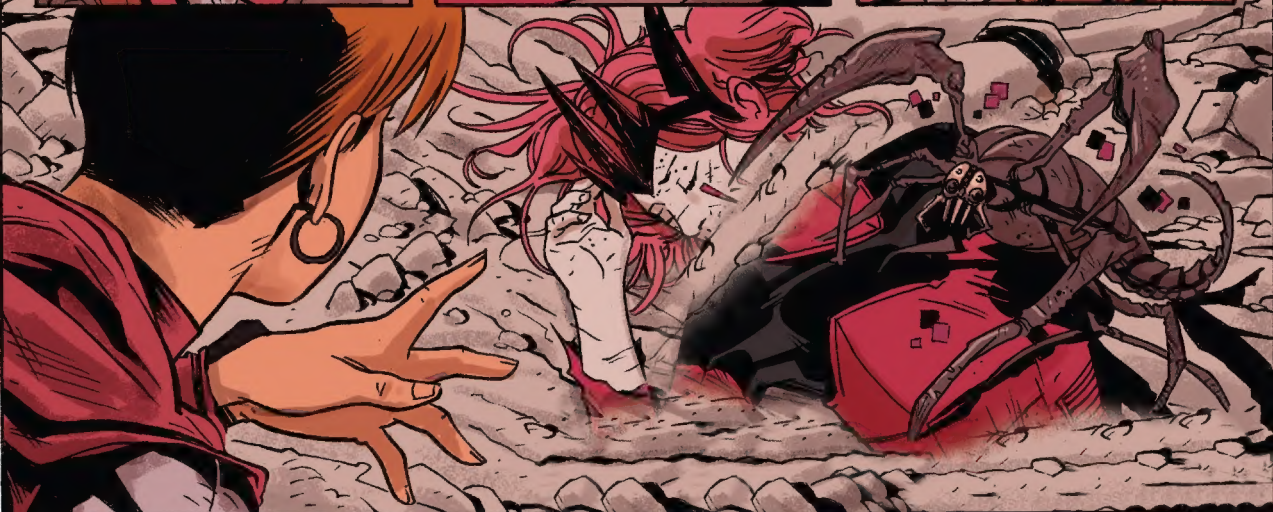


HMM?



SOMETHING
BURIED HERE.
JUST GET IT
CLEAR AND--

KKKKKKKKKK!





DOCTOR APHRA **NEXT ISSUE:**



A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away
is a lot easier to get to than you think –
and we want to hear from you!
Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if
you want to make it onto a future letters
page. Don't forget to mark the letter
"OK TO PRINT."



AN  OROBOROS
RELEASE - DCP